

**Scientific Exhibit at Next Year's Del Monte Annual Session.**—Exhibits may consist of charts, graphs, photographs, motion pictures, roentgenograms, specimens, apparatus and instruments. Members of the California Medical Association are invited to correspond with the Secretary-Editor in regard thereto. Prizes and certificates are awarded for the best exhibits.

**Tons of Medicine Rushed to U. S. S. R.**—Chairman Norman H. Davis of the American Red Cross announced he had given instructions to forward immediately 800 tons of medical supplies now in England to the U. S. S. R. Through the cooperation of the British Red Cross, to which these supplies were consigned, immediate shipment is being made. The supplies will be replaced to the British Red Cross by similar stocks from the United States.

Coincident with this immediate aid to the war-wounded soldiers and civilians in Russia, Chairman Davis announced that an additional \$250,000 worth of medical supplies will be sent direct from the United States to Russia. A shipment from this purchase is en route, containing hospital garments, surgical dressings, and large quantities of insulin and gas gangrene serum and antitoxin. The remainder of the \$250,000 worth of supplies now is being readied at American ports for shipment. This will include drugs of all types, five million surgical dressings, quantities of surgical instruments and other hospital supplies.

**Pay-Your-Doctor Week.**—Fourth annual "Pay-Your-doctor Week" was observed this year, November 2 to 8. Inaugurated in 1938 by California Bank in Los Angeles, observation of "Pay-Your-Doctor Week" swiftly spread to scores of cities throughout the country, and last year virtually achieved nation-wide recognition.

Primary purpose of "Pay-Your-Doctor Week" is to pay tribute to the members of the healing profession, who quietly but relentlessly continue the battle against disease and sickness, particularly at this time when much of the world is engaged in destroying rather than preserving life.

Recognized also is the fairly widespread tendency to "let the doctor wait" until all other bills have been paid.

Sponsors of "Pay-Your-Doctor Week" point out that the plight of the country doctor, who is often paid with farm products or a share in next year's crop, has been widely publicized in recent years, while little has been said about the city doctor, whose reward for services rendered all too frequently consists mainly of long hours of practice and vague promises of payment some time in the future.

Because "Pay-Your-Doctor Week" was originated and is sponsored by the banking profession, the question of medical ethics is not involved.

Banks sponsoring the week throughout the country call attention to the fact that funds are available to lend for the purpose of paying doctor bills.

**Hospital Bed Facilities in the United States.**—The most widespread survey ever made of hospital bed facilities in the United States has been released by the Census Bureau of the United States Department of Commerce, revealing that 1,282,785 beds were available in 9,614 institutions for the medical care of the American people in 1939.

The country's 6,991 hospitals and sanatoriums provided the great bulk of this care—355,145,063 patient-days, or the equivalent of one week-end stay in a hospital each year for every person in the United States. Infirmarys and nursing, convalescent, and rest homes provided the remainder.

Hospitals and sanatoriums had 1,186,262 beds—92 per cent of the nation's total. Census Bureau figures show that the average hospital had 169 beds and served 5,000 families. . . .

Even existing facilities are not being used fully, the Census Bureau Survey indicated. Allowing a margin of

reserve for epidemic peaks, the Committee on the Cost of Medical Care estimated that general hospitals would operate most efficiently with an occupancy of 80 per cent, and mental and tuberculosis hospitals with an occupancy of 90 per cent.

In 1939, general hospitals were operating at 70 per cent of capacity, tuberculosis hospitals at 85 per cent, and mental hospitals at 95 per cent. The Census Bureau noted that many mental hospitals are overcrowded, due to rapidly increasing hospitalization for this type of illness.

Although only 594 hospitals—less than one in ten—were for nervous and mental patients, they had 602,850 beds or more than one-half of the total for all types of patient. They gave 208,466,000 patient-days of care.

The 5,912 general hospitals gave 122,467,000 patient-days of care, and the 485 tuberculosis hospitals 24,212,000 patient-days.

Approximately 77 per cent of the care rendered in 1939 was in state, local, and federal government-controlled hospitals, 20 per cent in nonprofit institutions, and 3 per cent in proprietary institutions, the Census Bureau noted. The large proportion of care financed by taxes is due to government tuberculosis sanatoriums and government hospitals for mental patients.

California was classed with eighteen other states listed as having "adequate facilities," the state being credited with 85,365 beds, equivalent to 124 beds per 10,000 population.

**Press Clippings.**—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

#### A Doctor's Job

Several physicians were among the guests at a dinner party at a local home the other evening. Just as dinner was about to be served, one of them received a telephone call and left immediately. Two hours later he returned, in the meantime having performed an emergency operation for appendicitis upon a person he had never seen before. He sat down to a meal that was not so good as it had been a couple of hours earlier.

This little happening is a commonplace sample of what happens constantly in the lives of physicians. Under our present system of privately operated medical practice, physicians are always ready to aid. Somehow we have an idea that if we had some form of state medicine, as is sometimes demanded, state-paid surgeons would not be so ready to sacrifice their comfort for the benefit of their profession.

At least that is usually the way it works when bureaus and bureaucrats take over.—San Jose News, October 2.

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#### Insurance Men Conclude Meet

##### *Convention in San Francisco Goes on Record Against Socialized Medicine*

San Francisco.—The current trend toward state-administered medical care and socialized medicine was condemned in San Francisco yesterday by delegates to the twenty-eighth annual convention of the National Fraternal Congress of America, representing eighty-six fraternal insurance societies with a membership of more than seven million.

Concluding its five-day sessions, the convention adopted resolutions advocating prompt and satisfactory solution of the problems of public health and medical care in a manner best befitting the American way of life. . . .

Action of the convention stemmed in part from an address on Wednesday by Charles A. Togut on the political threat to medicine. Mr. Togut, a counselor at law of New York City, warned that state or governmental medicine may destroy the private practice of medicine.

"The paralyzing strangulation of the country's 50,000,000 voters through the politically controlled and dominated doctor will be the lost horizon of merciless bureaucracy," Mr. Togut asserted. "The moment we vest in the Government the care of the body, we imprison the political soul of every voter.

"The legislatures of every state, barring four, pondered over 200 bills relating to medical and hospital care, and several states deliberated far-reaching legislation to establish state-wide plans for public medicine. The Congress of the United States is weighing the destiny of our peoples and of our doctors with numerous authoritarian legislative medical measures. The battle of the century, the Government versus the American Medical Association, is

but a prelude to the conditioning processes of a national planned medical care program—unless the American people, the doctors, the industrialists, the leaders of labor and capital can smother the most powerful propaganda factory in the world and inaugurate fighting means and methods to unite the leaders of medicine and industry in a progressive and universal health insurance movement, the merit of which could not be attacked by the most fervent advocate of socialized medicine."

Organization of a national institute of health insurance under the American Medical Association was advocated by Mr. Togut to make available immediately the medical skill and facilities of the United States to people who cannot buy medical care. Pointing out that a large market awaits this insurance, Mr. Togut said that under full acceptance annual premium income could exceed those of all legal reserve life insurance companies in the United States. . . .

Thomas R. Heaney, Secretary of the Catholic Order of Foresters of Chicago, was elected president of the fraternal congress for the ensuing year.—*San Francisco Wall Street Journal*, September 26. \* \* \*

#### Hospital Service Plan Benefits Disclosed

"Payments made to hospitals during this week and covering hospital services for our members brings the total paid out in three years to more than \$500,000," reported Ralph G. Walker, executive director of the Associated Hospital Service of Southern California. "This means that this sum, which otherwise would have come out of the savings and pocketbooks of employed people in payment for unexpected hospital bills, has been paid for them through their membership in Southern California's own Hospital Service Plan."

The local Association was organized and backed by fifty-seven hospitals in Southern California.—*Hollywood Citizen-News*, September 26. \* \* \*

#### Physicians Seek Better Health Insurance

Ideas for improvement of the major health insurance systems affecting San Francisco physicians were sought at a general meeting of the San Francisco County Medical Society.

The Health Service System, under which 1,070 San Francisco physicians serve 16,274 municipal employees and their dependents, and California Physicians' Service, by which some 5,400 California doctors serve approximately 30,000 persons throughout the state, were analyzed and discussed in detail, according to Dr. Harold A. Fletcher, County Medical Society president.

Means of making these systems function more smoothly and efficiently was given careful consideration by the entire membership of the Society, Doctor Fletcher declared.

"It is vital for the continued existence of the Health Service System that it be put on a sound, businesslike basis," Doctor Fletcher declared. "Under present arrangements, the doctors are required to underwrite this system at an approximate 50 per cent loss to themselves. In justice to the doctors and for the welfare of the system and those it serves, a more efficient basis of operation must be found. The physicians are most earnest in their desire to make this an effective—in fact, a model—health insurance system."

Speakers at Tuesday night's meeting included Dr. Alson R. Kilgore, one of the founders of the California Medical Association's health insurance system.—*San Francisco Sunset News*, September 25. \* \* \*

#### Food Sale as Public Utility Is Proposed

San Francisco, September 27 (AP).—An initiative constitutional amendment designating the sale of all food a public utility and vesting in the state the exclusive right to sell food to the public was sent to the Secretary of State today by Avery C. Moore of Oakland, with the request that a copy be forwarded to the Attorney-General for titling.

The proposed amendment would create a state board of food distribution which would purchase food and sell it at cost to the people. It would prohibit food sale by private agency for profit.

Moore said the proposed amendment is intended as a companion initiative to the free medical care initiative, of which he also is the proponent.—*Sacramento Bee*, September 27. \* \* \*

#### Warren Rules Relief Camps May Continue

Attorney-General Earl Warren's office today ruled that relief camps established by the defunct State Relief Administration may continue to operate, using supplies already on hand and funds provided by the counties and the Work Projects Administration.

The Medical Practice Act does not require that applicants for licenses as physicians and surgeons, including those holding credentials from foreign medical schools, shall have done all their work in one school. . . .—*Sacramento Bee*, October 10. \* \* \*

#### State Health Officers Accused of Failing to Cooperate

Sacramento, October 13 (Special to The News).—A blistering attack on California health officers for failing to cooperate more closely and to arouse greater interest in matters of public health was delivered today by Dr. Lee Alexander Stone, Madera County health officer, at a meeting of the Health Officers' Section, League of California Cities. Doctor Stone, President of the Section, warned that social workers are making inroads in public health fields, are highly organized and, "unless curbed, all of us may find ourselves out on a limb with a social worker directing our actions."

"Save for Bay Region politicians," said Doctor Stone, "I know of no health officer group in California that cares a damn about the welfare of their confrères."

"Doctors as a class are too selfish as far as professional relationships with other groups are concerned. They rarely (there are a few exceptions) interest themselves in what is going on about them except only as it concerns themselves. Their opinions must be regarded as being sacrosanct or else they go into a corner and pout."

"We meet once a year as a health officers' organization. We hear a few papers read and, if interested, enjoy discussing them. We have a good time, give a dry banquet, not because we want to particularly, but because we are afraid of offending reform groups."

"If we are to defeat self-constituted groups bent on taking from us the very little we now have, we should organize."

"Let's forget our own political sensitiveness and determine to have unity for the sole purpose of making the state alive to our existence. Legislation needs to be passed that will place public health and public health officials on a sound economic footing." \* \* \*

#### Los Angeles Scientist Gets Coveted British Medical Award

##### Dr. Arthur E. Guedel Honored for Work in Anesthesia

Dr. Arthur E. Guedel, scientist in the field of anesthesia, last night received the prized Henry Hill Hickman Medal awarded by the Royal Society of Medicine at London. He was the third person in the world and the only American to be so honored.

The presentation, with Gilbert Holliday, British Vice-Consul, acting on behalf of the Royal Society, was made at a dinner tendered Doctor Guedel by the Los Angeles County Medical Association—and was done without the bronze medal itself, "due," Holliday explained, "to unfortunate interruption of shipping schedules."

##### History Reviewed

Introduced by Dr. Thomas Chalmers Myers, president, Dr. Chauncey Leake, University of California professor of pharmacology, reviewed the history of anesthesia. He described Hickman, a young British surgeon of the last century, as "the first man to undertake, by systematic experiments and study, the use of gases in getting relief from pain in surgical operations."

Doctor Guedel was lauded for "pioneering the reintroduction of nitrous oxid as an anesthetic by making it safe from asphyxiation by adding plenty of oxygen"; for developing divinyl ether—"a safer agent and a faster one than ordinary ether"; for aiding in creation of the carbon dioxide absorption method that "reduces explosions and gives better control to the surgeon," and for twelve years' research in the perfection of cyclopropane gas.—*Los Angeles Press Item*, October 22, 1941. \* \* \*

#### Rôle of Mongrel Dogs: A Fat-Burning Hormone Is Discovered

Chicago, October 10 (The Special News Service).—Some mongrel dogs kept at the University of Chicago have helped science discover a new chemical which burns up fat in living bodies.

The chemical is a new hormone, which has been named Lipocaic, after two Greek words, lipos, meaning fat, and kaio, meaning I burn.

This hormone is a companion of insulin. Both are manufactured in the pancreas, the gland which lies near the stomach. Lipocaic is useful in some of the fat disturbances of diabetes, and has cured a few cases of the supposedly incurable skin disease, psoriasis.

In the rôle played by the Chicago dogs, scientific history has repeated itself. Dog experiments enabled the late Sir

Frederick Banting to discover insulin, which has saved millions of lives in a few years.

#### Live for Science

Whereas laboratory animals popularly are supposed to die for science, the Chicago dogs may be said to have lived for science. All are animals which had gone to the dog catcher and were about to be put to death.

The Chicago experimenters gave these animals new leases on life. One of them, which came into the laboratory when the first experiments began, still is doing his bit.

In these animals, lipocaiic was shown to be a good remedy for fatty livers. This is an affliction which sometimes complicates diabetes. One of the first human cases treated for this trouble, a 59-year-old woman, was improved by the new hormone.

#### Seven Were Cured

The skin disease, psoriasis, was attributed by medical scientists to faulty utilization of fat by the body. For this reason the fat-burner hormone was tried on twenty-two persons. Of these, seven were apparently cured, eleven were improved, and four were not benefited.

The lipocaiic has helped another skin trouble, zanthomatism, in which nodules appear on the body. This disease is attributed to fat in the blood.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, October 11.

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#### Arrangements Should Be Made in Advance for Children's Clinic

Arrangements should be made in advance for physically handicapped children to attend the clinic in the Veterans' Memorial Building, Sonora, Tuesday, September 23, from 1 to 4 p. m. Appointments can be made through Miss Thelma Jordan, public health nurse.

The clinic is under the auspices of the Crippled Children's Services of the State Department of Public Health.

All children under twenty-one years of age who are crippled by disease, accident, or by deformities present at birth, are eligible to attend the clinic, which is one of a series held annually throughout California by the State Department of Public Health.

Last year the State Department held forty-seven diagnostic clinics in different sections of the state, at which 1,828 crippled children were examined and recommendations made for medical care.—*Sonora Union Democrat*, September 19.

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#### \$75,000 Grant From Rockefeller Foundation Will Finance Three-Year Study of Health Agencies in United States

The National Health Council, which has served for the past two decades as a clearing house for national voluntary organizations promoting better health, is undertaking a comprehensive study of the activities of all private health agencies in the United States, under a special grant of \$75,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation, it is announced by Dr. Kendall Emerson, president of the Council.

"Great strides have been made in health education during the past twenty or thirty years," said Doctor Emerson, "and the American public has come to understand that it is much more economical, as well as far more humane, to prevent disease than to cure it. Communities throughout the country have built up many excellent private health services devoted to the prevention of illness, and we have now reached a point where it seems desirable to appraise this whole field of endeavor in order that our efforts may be even more effective.

"The study will take about three years to complete, and the report will answer such broad questions as the following: What are the various types of state and local voluntary health agencies? What fields do they cover? What methods of coöperation with official health agencies have they established? What do they cost to operate? What types of health work lead to the greatest active participation on the part of the citizens?"

Dr. Louis I. Dublin, chairman of a special committee of the National Health Council, which has been making plans for this study, said: "It is particularly appropriate that the Rockefeller Foundation should finance such an undertaking, for it was the support of the Foundation which made possible the establishment of the National Health Council in 1921, and since then the Foundation has shown unmistakable interest in various Council activities. We are especially pleased that the Foundation has met our request to grant a leave of absence to its vice-president, Mr. Selskar M. Gunn, one of the world's outstanding authorities on public health problems, to direct this study."

Mr. Gunn returned to America recently after a long stay abroad as director of the European headquarters of

the Rockefeller Foundation in Paris, now closed because of the war. Previously, he had been in charge of the Foundation's program of rural reconstruction in China.

The active members of the National Health Council (headquarters at 1790 Broadway, New York City), include the following: American Red Cross, American Public Health Association, American Eugenics Society, American Heart Association, American Social Hygiene Association, American Society for the Control of Cancer, American Society for the Hard of Hearing, Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America, Maternity Center Association, National Committee of Health Council Executives, National Committee for Mental Hygiene, National Organization for Public Health Nursing, National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, and the National Tuberculosis Association.

There are two associate members, the American Nurses' Association and the Foundation for Positive Health; and there are two advisory members, the United States Children's Bureau, and the United States Public Health Service.

#### MEDICAL EPONYM

##### *Bence-Jones Protein*

A paper, "On a new substance occurring in the Urine of a patient with Mollities Ossium," was read before the Royal Society on April 22, 1847, by Henry Bence-Jones (1813-1873), physician to St. George's Hospital. This appears in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London* (138, Pt. 1:55-62, 1848).

On the 1st of November 1845 I received from Dr. Watson the following note, with a test tube containing a thick, yellow, semi-solid substance:—"The tube contains urine of very high specific gravity; when boiled it becomes highly opaque; on the addition of nitric acid it effervesces, assumes a reddish hue, becomes quite clear, but, as it cools, assumes the consistence and appearance which you see: heat relieves it. What is it?"

"A few hours afterward a specimen of the same urine, passed by a grocer forty-seven years of age, who had been out of health for thirteen months, was sent to me by Dr. MacIntyre. He, being in attendance on the case with Dr. Watson, had two days previously first observed the peculiar reactions of the urine.

"The specimen of urine was slightly acid; specific gravity 1.034; it contained a sediment consisting of crystalline phosphate of lime, oxalate of lime, and cylinders of fibrin. The urine became thick with heat from a deposit of phosphates, but cleared with a drop of acid. It gave no precipitate with an excess of nitric acid, unless left to stand, or unless heated and left to cool, when it became solid. This solid redissolved by heat, and again formed on cooling. Continued boiling with strong nitric acid evolved but little gas, and did not quickly hinder this reaction. Hydrochloric acid gave the same solid precipitate, soluble by heat. Strong acetic acid gave only a slight precipitate which redissolved by heat. Caustic potash and sulphate of copper gave a splendid bright blue, clear liquid, passing over when heated to claret colour. . . .

"January 2nd.—The patient died. The following day I saw that the bony structure of the ribs was cut with the greatest ease, and that the bodies of the vertebrae were capable of being sliced off with the knife. For an account of the structure of the bone, see a paper by Mr. Dalrymple in the third number of the *Dublin Journal*, August 1846. . . .

"The ultimate analysis of this substance may be represented by  $C_{48}, H_{37}, N_6, O_{15}$  or  $C_{40}, H_{30}, N_5, O_{12}$ . . . . Hence it is an oxide of albumen, and from ultimate analysis, it is the hydrated deutoxide of albumen. . . .

"The peculiar characteristic of this hydrated deutoxide of albumen was its solubility in boiling water, and the precipitate with nitric acid being dissolved by heat and reformed when cold. . . .

This substance must again be looked for in acute cases of mollities ossium. The reddening of the urine on the addition of nitric acid might perhaps lead to the rediscovery of it. . . ."—R. W. B., in *New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 225, No. 9.